

A NEW COMBINATION IN *BOECHERA* (BRASSICACEAE)
FOR THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGION

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ABSTRACT

The new combination *Boechea holboellii* (Hornem.) Löve & Löve var. *pendulocarpa* (A. Nelson) N. Snow is made to accommodate this taxon at the rank of variety in that genus for the Southern Rocky Mountain Flora project.

Key Words: nomenclature, Rocky Mountains, *Arabis*, *Boechea*.

During the recent preparation of a checklist of vascular plants for the Southern Rocky Mountains Flora Project (Snow and Brasher 2004) it became evident that a combination in the genus *Boechea* Löve & Löve (Brassicaceae) was unavailable at the varietal level for a taxon formerly recognized from that region as *Arabis holboellii* Hornem. var. *pendulocarpa* (A. Nelson) Rollins (Harrington 1954; Rollins 1993; Kartez and Meacham 1999; Welsh et al. 2003). The purpose of this brief article is to make the appropriate combination in the genus *Boechea*. The new combination is necessary given the mounting evidence that *Arabis sensu lato* is highly polyphyletic and that most North American taxa assigned to *Arabis* belong in *Boechea* (Weber 1982; Al-Shehbaz 2003 and references therein).

Boechea holboellii (Hornem.) Löve & Löve var. ***pendulocarpa*** (A. Nelson) N. Snow, comb. nov. *Arabis pendulocarpa* A. Nelson, Bot. Gaz. 30: 192. 1900. *Arabis holboellii* Hornem. var. *pendulocarpa* (A. Nelson) Rollins, Rhodora 43: 446. 1941. TYPE: USA: Wyoming, Yellowstone National Park, June, 1899, A. & E. Nelson 5504 (lectotype: RM [designated implicitly by Rollins 1941: 446], not seen; isotypes: G, NY, US, not seen).

Not all authors have recognized *B. holboellii* var. *pendulocarpa* at this rank, nor agreed that it represents a distinct taxon. It was first recognized by Nelson (1900) at the specific level. However, Weber and Wittmann (1992) placed it in synonymy under *Boechea retrofracta* (R. Graham) Löve & Löve with two other varieties of *Arabis holboellii*, whereas Dorn (2001) considers it a distinct species with at least two varieties. Al-Shehbaz (personal communication 2004) is revising *Boechea* and related genera for a forthcoming volume of *Flora of North America* and has indicated that *B. holboellii* var. *pendulocarpa* ultimately may be treated differently. However, to conform with the work of others in the region who typically recognize members of

this species complex at varietal rank (e.g., Dorn 2001; Welsh et al. 2003) and to be consistent with our checklist (Snow and Brasher 2004), the present combination is necessary.

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